

# The American Observer

*A free, virtuous, and enlightened people must know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends.—James Monroe*

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## Making Excuses

By Walter E. Myer

A GOOD many people seem to think that it doesn't make much difference how often they fail to do their work well or to perform their duties if they always have a good excuse for their failures. The excuse-maker, the explainer, is found in every classroom, in every business office.

If a lesson is unprepared the student may explain that he didn't understand the assignment. If he is late to class he blames it on the alarm clock. If he has been absent he chooses from a long list of possible explanations. He says he had a cold, or that there was illness in the family. If a man is late in getting to the factory or office, he may say that he couldn't get a taxi, the bus was late, he had a flat tire or traffic was heavier than usual. If he misses an appointment he may explain that company came just as he was leaving home.

A person who often finds it necessary to make excuses changes them from one occasion to another. He invents new ones from time to time. He may become quite skilled in explaining his shortcomings and his errors. His alibis may sound reasonable. They frequently enable him to "get by."

It is a fact, of course, that explanations are sometimes justified and even necessary. No one can be on the job all the time. Everyone will make mistakes at times. Anyone may make an appointment or a promise and may find out later that he cannot do what he thought he would. Any student may fail at a lesson or an assignment. In such a case an honest explanation may be given.

Excuses are justified if there aren't too many of them. It is the *excuse habit* which should be avoided. An alibi, even a good one, is not a substitute for the performance of duty. You may tell very convincingly why you did not do what was expected of you, but that does not put you where you would have been if you had not failed. That is not the way to win the confidence of teachers, employers or friends. That is not the way to make a good record, or to acquire a reputation for reliability.



Walter E. Myer

It has been said that "He who is good at making excuses is seldom good at anything else." This may be a slight exaggeration but there is a great deal of truth in it. One should make every effort to keep his word, to do his work well and to perform his duties at all times. Then if he occasionally falls short of the mark he can explain his situation without losing self-respect or the confidence and respect of his friends.

The successful man or woman knows that it is important to get things done and to get them done in spite of difficulties. Problems will be encountered by anyone who is doing a worth-while job. Obstacles will lie along the path wherever one may go, but it is always better to overcome them than to parade them as excuses for failure.



FROM OTHER LANDS come these goods being unloaded in San Francisco. An increasing number of such cargoes may come to our ports under trade agreements the President is authorized to make.

## Flow of World Trade

President Truman, Armed with Broad Power by Congress, Seeks to Bring About Better Balance in Foreign Commerce

ON an average day 28 ships enter New York Harbor carrying 10 million dollars in foreign merchandise, reports the *New York Times*. Included in the cargoes are wool from Australia, perfume from France, jute from India, and dozens of other items.

On the same day, says the *Times*, 32 ships leave New York Harbor carrying 17 million dollars worth of American merchandise for foreign nations—machinery, automobiles, cotton, foodstuffs, and so on.

The daily flow of trade in and out of New York Harbor gives, in miniature, a picture of world commerce today. While the trade picture varies from port to port, the over-all picture is identical with that in New York—the U. S. is selling to other nations much more than it is buying from them.

Last year we sent abroad goods worth close to 13 billion dollars. At the same time we bought from other nations merchandise valued at only about 7 billion dollars. This situation, it is said, is the big factor in Europe's dollar shortage. Even though most foreign countries need—and want—more American products, they can't afford to buy them. They just can't sell enough goods to us to get the

dollars they need to make additional purchases from this country.

Recently our government took steps intended to remedy this unhealthy trade situation. The Reciprocal Trade Agreements Act, first passed in 1934, was extended again, this time for three years. Agreements with 10 countries have already been made under the extended act whereby we are reducing tariffs on goods from those nations as they lower duties on articles we sell them.

Let's study the trade agreement act and see how it works. Designed to encourage a greater volume of trade among nations, it tries to break down some of the barriers that have long been considered a hindrance to world commerce.

One such barrier is the import tariff. This is a tax placed on goods entering a country. For example, for each British bicycle of a certain kind brought into this country for sale a tax of \$2.50 must be paid. American typewriters shipped to Britain are subject to a tariff of about \$3.00 each.

Most countries make use of import tariffs in varying degree, and thousands of articles in world trade are subject to such taxes. Many tariffs

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## Pension Plans Widely Sought

Union Demand for Retirement Systems Brings Series of Industrial Disputes

THE subject of old-age pensions has been prominently in the news during recent weeks. Labor leaders are making a big drive to compel employers to build up retirement funds for their workers. The pension issue caused the steel strike and has led to disputes in a number of other industries.

There are several reasons for the present interest in retirement plans. One is the result of wartime developments. During World War II, labor was extremely scarce. Industry needed to turn out record-breaking quantities of military supplies at the very time when millions of workers were being taken out of their civilian jobs and put into the armed forces.

Employers had to compete with one another for the limited number of workers who were available. If the government had allowed them to do so, employers probably would have bid wages up to levels much higher than were actually reached. However, the government "froze" wages and prices in order to keep both from soaring to dangerous heights.

Prevented by law from bidding against one another in terms of daily or weekly pay, many firms turned to other ways of holding old employees and attracting new ones. One of these methods was the establishment of retirement pension plans. "Work for us until you are about 65 years old," promised these companies, "and after that you can retire on a sizable monthly income."

Although numerous firms had set up old-age benefit programs many years earlier, wartime conditions gave the pension idea a boost. This is one of the reasons why workers in a

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GREENER PASTURES? Unions are now placing greater emphasis on pension plans than on wage increases.

# World Trade

(Concluded from page 1)

produce considerable revenue. Others are used mainly to help "protect" a nation's industries and are set so high that they keep many foreign products from entering the country to compete with similar articles made "at home."

Various other trade restrictions are common, as, for example, the quota system. This restricts the amount of goods that a country will import. The effect of tariffs, quotas, and other such devices is to cut down the amount of trade among nations.

The Reciprocal Trade Agreements Act strikes directly at these obstacles to world commerce. The act permits President Truman to make agreements with foreign countries cutting tariffs as much as 50 per cent below the rates set in 1945 provided that the other nations, in return, lower their tariffs on American goods.

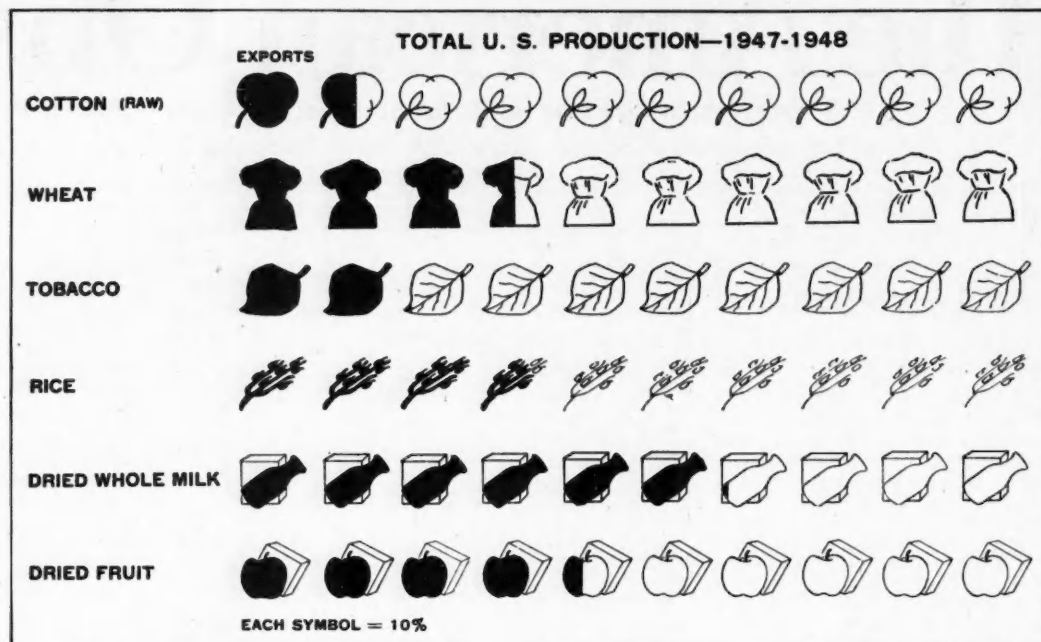
Suppose our government decides to draw up an agreement with France. French officials are approached and agree to the negotiations. The two countries then exchange lists of the articles on which they hope to reduce tariff rates.

We next announce publicly that we are considering steps to lower tariffs on certain French products. Public hearings are held. At this time, American businessmen, representatives of farm and labor groups, exporters, importers, and others have a chance to express their opinions on the proposed tariff changes.

As a result of these hearings and the studies of government experts, tariff changes are suggested and are submitted to the President for his approval. Once he has approved them, bargaining with France gets under way.

Two years ago 23 nations took part in just such a "bargaining session" at Geneva, Switzerland. At that time, France indicated that it wanted to sell more perfume in the United States. The U. S. delegation wanted to sell more cotton in France. The upshot was that France agreed to lower the tariff on cotton and a number of other items if the United States would lower the tariff on certain French articles including perfume.

In a similar manner, agreements were drawn up among the other nations that attended the conference. All 23 nations reduced tariffs or agreed not to put on new or higher



MANY AMERICAN FARMERS would be hard hit if foreigners would stop buying their products

tariffs on thousands of their products.

In recent months a meeting similar to the Geneva Conference of 1947 has been taking place in Annecy, France. Delegates from the United States and 32 other countries have been talking over further tariff reductions. The 10 new trade agreements grew out of these talks. The agreements are with Italy, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Greece, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Uruguay, Nicaragua, and Liberia.

## Imports to Grow

Consequently, the prospect is for an increase in foreign goods coming into the United States. If this happens, it will continue a trend that has been evident for some years. Last year, for example, we imported 31 per cent more goods from abroad than we did in 1939. During the same period however, the quantity of goods we sent to other countries increased by 87 per cent.

A further increase in purchases by the United States will enable foreign countries to earn more dollars than they are now doing. Everyone agrees that an increased income for these nations is highly desirable, for the only way that a number of countries have been making both ends meet in recent years is through the gifts and loans they have received from the

United States. If they can earn more dollars, we will no longer be called upon to give extensive financial aid.

Everyone does not agree, though, on the effect that lower tariffs will have within our own country. Many Americans feel that a further lowering of tariffs will have extremely harmful effects. For example, Congressman Charles Vursell of Illinois, speaking before the House of Representatives in the summer, said:

"It is our responsibility and duty to keep 56 million workers supplied with jobs here at home. We cannot keep them employed if we allow an unlimited flood of manufactured goods to be shipped into this country, made by low-wage foreign workers in other countries. . . Unless the present policy is changed, many more millions of laboring men and women will be added to the over 4 million now unemployed."

Congressman Walt Horan of Washington, takes a similar position. He agrees that our tariffs were too high some years ago, but he thinks we are now going to the other extreme by lowering our tariffs too much. "Today", he says, "many industries are feeling the effects of underpriced imports."

Others feel that the nation will reap benefits from tariff reductions. Senator Guy Gillette of Iowa, for example, recently put forth these views:

"... No one can pretend that our economy has suffered from these tariff reductions. On the contrary, we enjoy the highest employment in our history, the greatest production and consumption in our history, the highest wage level ever attained by any country. If, at this point in history, America should revert to the old policy of almost insurmountable tariff barriers, we would again be damming up the streams of trade instead of progressively clearing the channel."

The American Federation of Labor agrees with Senator Gillette. The labor organization took this stand in a recent official bulletin:

"As trade between nations increases, more jobs will be created, more goods will be produced and more and higher wages paid. Economic life in the different countries will be geared to the international exchange of goods. Industrial expansion in each nation will contribute to expansion in others, and the general standard of living will rise progressively."

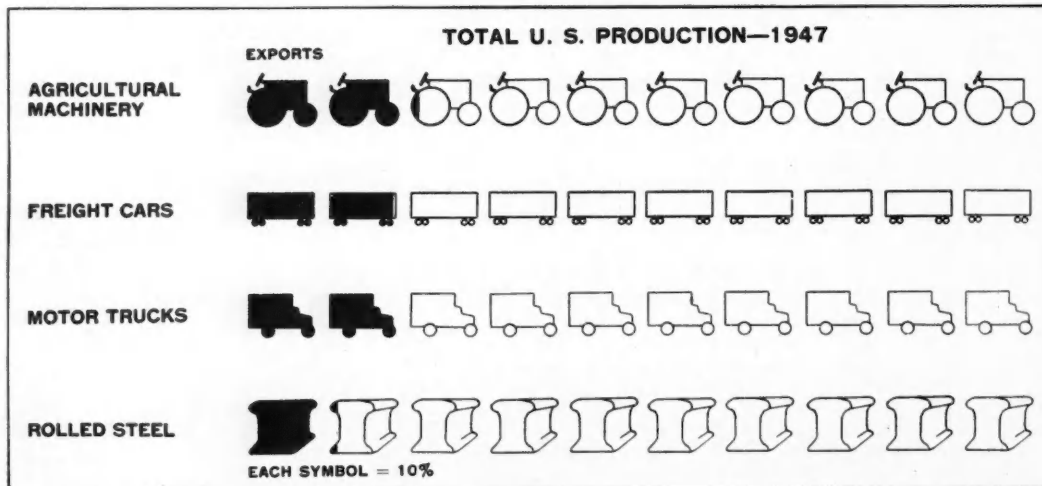
## Hurt or Help?

Pro and con arguments on this subject will be heard frequently in the months to come. There are certain facts, however, which offer no possibility for argument. One is this:

If foreigners cannot increase their sales in this country, they will have to cut down on their purchases of American products. In such a case, many of our farmers and certain of our industries—the ones that sell large quantities of their products abroad—will be seriously hurt. Their sales to foreigners will be reduced.

On the other hand, it is also a fact that many American industries and some farmers will have a harder time selling their goods in the face of greater foreign competition. So the big question boils down to this: "Will more people be hurt than will be helped by the further lowering of tariffs?"

The trend in U. S. business during the next 3 years will have an important effect on the trade controversy. Should depression threaten, demands for increased tariffs will rise. If we remain prosperous, it seems quite likely that opposition to low tariffs will diminish.



SOME OF our industries sell more than 20 per cent of their output abroad



# News Columnists Help Shape National Thought

*Taken Together Their Different Views Give Rounded Picture of Events*

THE writer of a syndicated newspaper column plays a major role in shaping public opinion. His writings appear in newspapers all over the country. The thinking of millions of Americans is influenced by these signed articles that interpret national and international affairs and present valuable background information.

Among the first serious columnists to attract national attention were Walter Lippmann and the late Heywood Broun. Their efforts during the 1920's broke the ground for later columnists. There was widespread interest in national affairs during the depression years, and a number of columns were started at that time.

Many newspaper readers have a favorite columnist whose writings they follow regularly and whose opinions they value highly. A better policy is for readers to follow the writings of a number of columnists who have different points of view. Such a procedure will give the reader a broader understanding of world events than he would otherwise have, and will help him to form sound, balanced opinions on the issues of the day.

We are presenting brief sketches of some of the country's leading columnists, indicating their general point of view and giving a few personal facts about each. There are, of course, a number of other able columnists, but space does not permit us to include them here.

**Joseph and Stewart Alsop.** Since the war the Alsop brothers' hard-hitting column has attracted a large following. The brothers take an independent course and are frequently critical of the federal government's policies. However, they are not slavish supporters of a single party or economic group.

Joseph Alsop has been a newspaperman for some years, but Stewart did not join his brother until after the war. One of these men frequently travels, while the other carries on at their Washington, D. C., office. Some columns are written separately, while the brothers join efforts on others.

**Marquis Childs.** Known especially for his moderate and reasonable views on national affairs, Childs never resorts to sensationalism to attract readers. He is often critical of government policy, but his criticism is always of a constructive nature. He explains problems clearly and supplies enough facts to help the reader make up his own mind on the various problems of the day.

Childs served as the Washington correspondent of the St. Louis *Post-Dispatch* for some years. He has written several books, including a very popular one on the cooperative movement in Sweden.

**Peter Edson.** Last spring the Ray-

mond Clapper Memorial Award for outstanding Washington reporting went to this hard-working Scripps-Howard columnist. Edson is a zealot in digging out facts and figures on the Washington scene, as his "meaty" column plainly indicates.

A native of Indiana, the 53-year-old Edson began his present column in 1941. Today it goes to more than 600 newspapers.

**David Lawrence.** A veteran Washington newspaperman, Lawrence brings a wealth of background into his columns. He favors Republican policies more often than Democratic, but does not hesitate to criticize either party. He sides with business more often than with labor, but is sometimes highly critical of industrial and business leaders. In foreign policy he is a firm believer in international cooperation.

Besides writing his column, Lawrence edits a weekly magazine, *United States News*. He has also written a number of books.

**Walter Lippmann.** Often called the "dean of American columnists," Lippmann has long been one of the most influential writers in the country. It has frequently been said that he has a larger following in Congress than any



Pegler



Thompson



Stokes



Lawrence

other columnist. He is a deep and highly independent thinker. He is always more concerned with the national welfare than with the interests of special political or economic groups.

A man of wide newspaper experience, Lippmann also held several government posts during World War I. Later he was editor of the famed *New York World*. He has written many books on political, economic, and social subjects.

**Drew Pearson.** Author of the "Washington Merry-Go-Round," Pearson's style and content have attracted millions of readers. Written in chatty, down-to-earth fashion, his column is a mixture of rumor and inside information on matters of national interest.

Pearson's supporters commend him for his behind-the-scenes treatment of the news and for the frequent uncovering of "graft and corruption" among government officials. His critics, on the other hand, charge him with being

a sensationalist whose writings are too often inaccurate.

Pearson's Sunday evening radio broadcast follows much the same pattern as his newspaper column. His well-known predictions of developments on the world scene attract a good deal of attention but don't always prove to be correct.

**Westbrook Pegler.** One of the hard-hitting columnists in the field, Pegler has antagonized many people through name-calling and sarcasm. These same traits have contributed to making his column widely read. He is opposed to having the government play an active part in the nation's social and economic life, often branding its activities along these lines as "communist" or "socialistic." His writings fre-

quently tear unions and their leaders limb from limb, but seldom point to constructive union achievements.

Pegler's chief role has been as a critic. His emphasis is usually more on "bad people and policies" than on good ones.

**Eleanor Roosevelt.** The wife of the former President touches upon a wide variety of subjects—the trivial as well as the important—in her chatty, informal column.

Since Mrs. Roosevelt is a member of the U. S. delegation to the United Nations, she is able to present first-hand information about the proceedings at the UN. She probably devotes more attention to the world organization than does any other columnist.

Mrs. Roosevelt's column, which she dictates daily in 30 minutes, is far more outspoken today than it was when she was in the White House. Mrs. Roosevelt has been taking part in a radio program five times a week, and the second volume of her memoirs is now appearing serially in *McCall's*.

**Thomas Stokes.** A Washington newspaperman for more than 25 years, Stokes started his present column in 1944. Known for his "liberal" point of view, he never side-steps controversial matters. He sides with labor more often than business; with the Democrats more often than the Republicans. He does not hesitate, however, to criticize either labor or the Democrats when he feels that they are wrong on a particular issue.



Lippmann



Roosevelt



J. Alsop



S. Alsop

Stokes' reporting has won him several notable prizes in the past, including the Pulitzer and Raymond Clapper Memorial awards. He is a native of Atlanta, Georgia.

**Mark Sullivan.** Sullivan, whose column dates back to 1923, has a "conservative" point of view. He fears that government will infringe on personal freedom and will lead to some type of state socialism. Many of his columns reflect this viewpoint.

Sullivan is the author of a series of popular books on everyday life in the United States from 1900 to 1925. The books give a vivid picture of the customs, recreational pursuits, and other activities of the American people during that period.

During Herbert Hoover's administration, Sullivan was a member of the famous Medicine Ball Cabinet, an informal group that met with the President each morning for half an hour of exercise. His columns during that period were considered an accurate reflection of administration policy.

**Dorothy Thompson.** Another veteran journalist, Miss Thompson gives most of her attention to international affairs. Long before World War II she saw the threat of fascism and attacked it with vigor. Readers frequently disagree with her views, but they find her column vital and thought-provoking.

Her unflagging interest in foreign affairs probably stems in part from her wide travels, particularly in Europe. At one time or another she has interviewed most of Europe's leaders. Miss Thompson started her column in 1936.

—By HOWARD O. SWEET.

## Articles to Come

We have had many requests asking us to announce in advance the subjects of articles which we intend to publish. We would like to comply with these requests, but we feel that in following such a procedure we could not always cover the news as it develops. If we were to announce articles in advance, and then other important news should break, we would be on a spot. For this reason, we cannot bind ourselves to run an article on a specific subject next week or the week after. We shall give our readers an idea from time to time, however, of the subjects we expect to deal with in the future.

During the coming month, unless more pressing topics come to the fore, we shall discuss:

- (1) The United Nations; (2) Women in Politics; (3) U. S. Navy and the Dissatisfaction of Some Officers with Our Present Military Policies; (4) Japan; (5) "Point Four" Program for Underdeveloped Areas of the World; (6) Education Today; (7) India.



Sullivan



Pearson



Childs



Edson

# The Story of the Week

## Italian Colonies

The General Assembly of the United Nations may vote during the current session to grant Libya its independence. Libya was an Italian colony before World War II, but it is now being administered by the British and the French until the Assembly reaches some kind of agreement on its future.

Observers believe that Libya may be given its independence because Russia has finally agreed to such a course of action. There are some differences between the plan advocated by the Soviet Union and the one supported by Great Britain, France and the United States, but it is considered possible that some compromise will be reached.

There does not seem to be any agreement, though, regarding Eritrea and Italian Somaliland, the other two colonies that were taken away from Italy during the war. Russia proposes that both these territories be placed under the trusteeship of the United Nations, but the Allies favor another plan. They want Italian Somaliland to be administered indefinitely by Italy and Eritrea to be divided between Ethiopia and the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan.

The UN Assembly will probably appoint a commission to study the problem and report back at the organization's session in 1950.

## UN Food Plan

World leaders are studying a proposal made recently by the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations. The FAO plan is intended to help needy nations buy

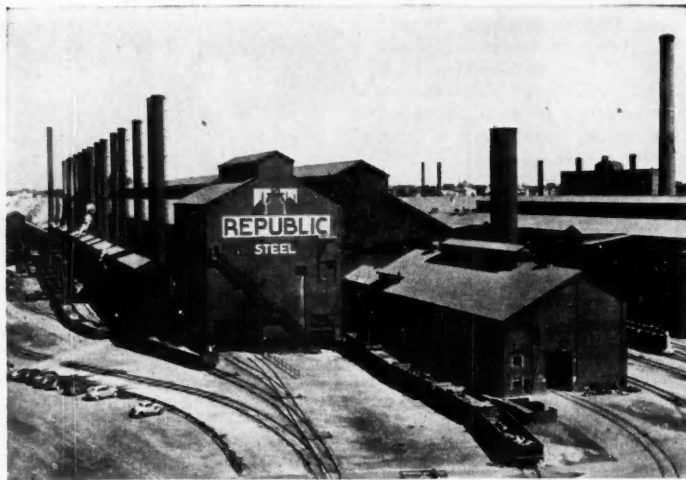


**GEORGE MARSHALL**, retired general and former Secretary of State, is back in public life as head of the American Red Cross. He chats here with President Truman.

food from countries, such as the United States, which have a surplus of agricultural products.

At present, FAO experts point out, the world's food supply is unevenly distributed. Some nations are producing much more than they need. In our own country, for instance, grain elevators are bulging. But for the world as a whole, there is no such thing as a food surplus. There are many nations which need extra food but which have difficulty buying it because they lack sufficient money.

The FAO hopes to overcome this problem by setting up an International Commodity Clearinghouse for farm products. The clearinghouse would be somewhat like a large international trading company. It would buy wheat and other farm products from nations which have more than they can use themselves. It would then sell these products to the food-



**NO NOISE, no chimney smoke, no work.** These are the results when strikes close great steel plants like this one in Cleveland.

poor nations on easier terms than they would be granted in buying directly from the food-producing countries.

Moreover, the international clearinghouse would work out money arrangements so that nations having shortages of foreign currencies could pay for their food purchases with their own types of money.

If the plan is adopted, all nations that are members of the United Nations or the FAO would be invited to join, and each would contribute funds for its operation. Since the United States is a well-to-do nation, it would contribute the largest share, just as it does in the case of other international groups.

## Are You Interested?

The Maritime Commission plans to hold its annual entrance examination for the U. S. Merchant Marine Academy on November 28. Young men who have either already graduated from high school or will graduate in January or February, 1950, may take the tests. Those who pass will be given a four-year course in marine engineering, navigation and allied subjects. Upon graduation, they become qualified for jobs as third mates or engineering officers on merchant vessels. They are also commissioned as ensigns in the U. S. Naval Reserve.

During the first year of training as a merchant marine cadet, a candidate attends either the U. S. Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, New York, or the Merchant Marine Cadet School at Pass Christian, Mississippi. The second year is spent at sea, while the third and fourth years are spent at the Kings Point institution.

According to Maritime Commission officials, the Academy may soon have the right to give Bachelor of Science degrees to its graduates. It is at present seeking such authority from the American Association of Colleges and Universities.

All Merchant Marine cadets receive food, clothing and pay of at least \$65 a month. Those who pass the coming examination will begin their training next March.

Applications for the test, as well as other information, may be obtained by writing to Supervisor, U. S. Merchant Marine Cadet Corps, Bureau

of Training, U. S. Maritime Commission, Washington, D. C.

## Balkan Powder Keg

The growing hostility between Russia and Yugoslavia is receiving the closest attention from U. S. Secretary of State Dean Acheson and his advisers. Two weeks ago, the governments of the Soviet Union and its eastern European satellites renounced their treaties of friendship and mutual assistance with Yugoslavia. In recent days, rumors have again sprung up that Russia has been increasing the number of her armored and infantry divisions in Hungary and Bulgaria, both of which are adjacent to Yugoslavia.

The chief question now under consideration by the State Department is how far we should go in the event Russia invades Yugoslavia. According to one view of the situation, we should give "all aid short of war"—that is, we should send military supplies and equipment but we should not engage in any fighting. Another view is that we should actually go to war if Yugoslavia is attacked because Russia would thereby be menacing world peace.

Observers point out, of course, that, although the State Department is considering giving some kind of assistance to Marshal Tito, we do not agree with the communist policies he

pursues within his own country. We want to help Tito, it is said, because in so doing we are weakening the Soviet Union's influence in world affairs.

## "My Friend Irma"

"My Friend Irma," the popular radio program, has been made into a movie with the same name. Starring in the film is Marie Wilson, who has been playing the part of Irma in the radio series since it started.

In the picture, Irma (Marie Wilson) is engaged to John Lund, a ne'er-do-well who is always out of a job. Lund discovers the song-and-comedy team of Dean Martin and Jerry Lewis, and promises to get them into show business. The rest of the movie is devoted to Lund's efforts to make good on his pledge and to the romance that springs up between Martin and Diana Lynn, Irma's friend.

Much of the laughter in "My Friend Irma" is due to the comedy of Martin and Lewis, a team that has lately been quite popular on the radio. Martin, in addition to singing, is the team's "straight man." As the zany member of the combination, Lewis sets audiences to howling.

Miss Wilson, of course, is excellent as the "beautiful but dumb" girl who always seems to be getting into trouble. Miss Lynn is her long-suffering partner.

## The "Three A's"

According to a recent article in "This Week" magazine, the American Automobile Association is responsible for many of the improvements that have taken place in motoring conditions in the last 25 years. The author, Richard Lauterbach, says that as a result of the AAA's activity, many states have adopted laws making drivers financially responsible for the damage they cause other motorists; the federal government has agreed to share in the cost of building expensive state highways; and progress along numerous lines has been made.

The AAA, according to Lauterbach, assigns representatives to Washington and the state capitals to seek the enactment of proposals which it believes would be of value to the nation's motorists. At present, the automobile organization is advocating the con-



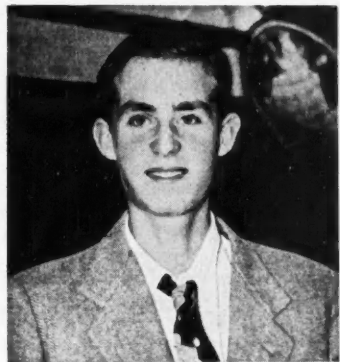
"MY FRIEND IRMA" is Paramount's comedy starring Diana Lynn and Marie Wilson



struction of 40,000 miles of new, modern highways and improvements in traffic laws. It is also supporting studies of traffic in large cities.

Lauterbach says that the AAA now has almost three million members and that each of them, by paying small annual dues, is entitled to a variety of services. Under the organization's rules, for instance, members may obtain advice on such matters as planning the details of a vacation and information concerning hotel and restaurant accommodations in various cities. They may also get towing service when their cars break down at a point not too far from an AAA service station.

Young people are acquainted with the "three A's" through the School Safety Patrol and the driving courses now given in more than one-fourth of the nation's high schools. The patrol was established by the organization years ago, while the idea for courses in driving was presented to educators as an effective method of reducing the number of accidents on the road.



**BACK HOME** in Berlin, 16-year-old Gerhard Hornemann will have plenty to tell his friends about the two-week tour of America he won with an essay on the Marshall Plan.

### "People's Republic of China"

The United States is making a careful study of the present situation in China. The Communists in that country have established a "People's Republic of China" and declare that it is the only true national authority now in existence. The "Republic" has recently been recognized by Russia and her satellites. It is now seeking recognition from our government and those of other nations.

Our State Department is not expected to decide whether we should or should not recognize the new Communist regime until all aspects of the problem are thoroughly investigated. It will first consult with leaders of Congress, a number of whom are opposed to withdrawing support from the Chinese Nationalist government.

Since their proclamation setting up their government, the Chinese Communists have selected Peiping as the capital of the new "Republic" and have changed its name to Peking. (Peiping means "northern peace;" Peking, "northern capital.") The executive branch of the government will be headed by a chairman, a premier and six vice chairmen.

### "Let's You and Me . . ."

In the October 3rd issue of THE AMERICAN OBSERVER, we used the sentence "Let's you and me play tennis" as an illustration of incorrect grammar.

Since then several of our readers have written to us insisting that the sentence is correct.

English authorities appear to be divided on the question. Alexander Witherspoon, author of *Common Errors in English and How to Avoid Them*, feels that the "you and me" should be omitted from the sentence. One should say only "Let's play tennis" or, without the contraction, "Let us play tennis." One should not, according to Mr. Witherspoon, say "Let's you and me play tennis," which is actually saying "Let us you and me play tennis." (We have omitted necessary commas since they were omitted in our original version of the sentence.)

On the other hand, Mary L. Williams, Chairman of the English Department of Kirkwood, Missouri, High School, says:

"Grammatically the sentence is constructed: 'You let us, you and me, (to) play tennis.' There are two grammatical reasons for the use of the pronoun *me* in the objective case. First, *me* is in apposition to the pronoun *us* and automatically takes the same case; secondly, the pronoun *me* is the assumed subject of the infinitive *to play*, and the assumed subject of the infinitive is always in the objective case."

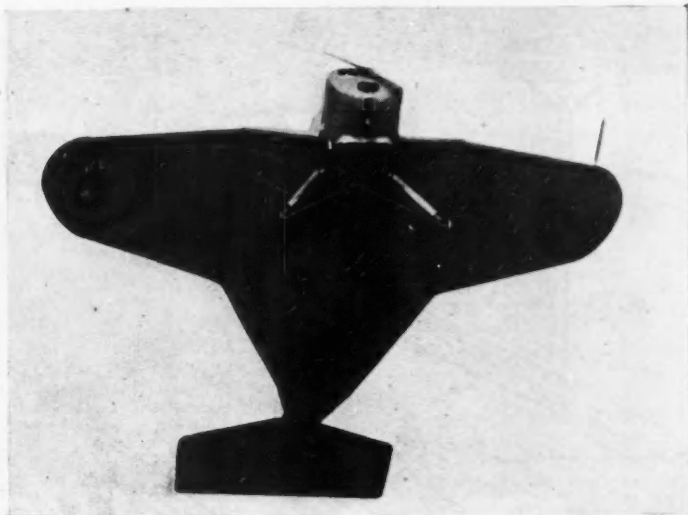
The issue seems to be whether it would be better merely to assume the "you and me" and leave it out, or whether it is better to include it. The English authorities will have to fight that question out.

### "Mr. Quarterback"

If the Chicago Bears continue playing their present brand of ball and win the National Professional Football League championship, a good part of the credit will doubtless go to Sid Luckman, the Bears' quarterback for 10 years. The team has already trounced such formidable rivals as the Chicago Cardinals and the Green Bay Packers and seems well equipped to ring up an impressive number of victories against its other league competitors.

Though he is 32 and, therefore, an "old man" for pro football, Luckman still plays in almost every game on the Bears' schedule. He also continues to show the gridiron brilliance that has won him the nickname of "Mr. Quarterback."

Since the 1948 football season, Luck-



**ON THE LAWN** is as good a place as any to land this plane. It's an experimental model that one day may be as common as the automobile. Holes in the wings are opened when the craft is to come down. Air rushes into the holes and slows the plane's speed. Then, at a snail's pace, the pilot can land safely in a small place.

man has been sharing the position of quarterback with Johnny Lujack, the former Notre Dame ace. He is teaching Lujack some of the finer points about professional play, so that when he retires in a few years, Lujack will be able to carry on as the Bears' field leader.

While he was a member of the football team at Columbia University, Luckman made All-American by virtue of his gridiron leadership and his great passing ability. He continues to call the right plays at the right time and he passes as well as anyone in either the National Football League or the rival All-America Football Conference.

### Georgia Dam

The federal government's Allatoona Dam, in north Georgia, is expected to be completed in the near future. The dam is located on the Etowah River, which is about 40 miles north of Atlanta. It is being built by the Army Corps of Engineers with an appropriation of 32 million dollars from Congress.

The purpose of the structure is to control the Etowah River's waters, which every few years cause serious floods near Rome, Georgia, the point at which the Etowah joins the Oostan-aula River. The aim is also to develop

enough power to provide electricity for about 140,000 homes in the north Georgia area.

The lake that is being created behind the Allatoona Dam will cover an area of 20,000 acres when the Etowah River is in full flood. Because of the picturesque country in which it is situated, the lake is expected to be used for recreation purposes by people from Atlanta and other sections of the state. Applications have already been received for permission to build cabins along the shore.

—By DAVID BEILES.

## Readers Say—

Almost everyone I know seemed quite upset over the news that Russia has developed an atom bomb. I feel, however, that the bomb may bring about an agreement between the Russians and ourselves.

The Soviet Union appears to be a little stronger than she was and so she may feel that she can afford to grant concessions in reaching a settlement on the issue. At the same time, our officials may be somewhat more willing to listen to the Russian position, even though our present stand on the control of the bomb is both fair and sound.

THORA GIRKE,  
Schenectady, New York

Why can't the nations of the world stop preparing for war and make an effort to promote peace? I think that we in the United States can do our bit by joining the United World Federalists. This organization believes world government is necessary for permanent peace.

EVELYN TELFORD,  
Madison, Connecticut

I am definitely in favor of helping the needy countries of Europe but I do not see why we must aid Great Britain, where the royal family receives a larger allowance than does our President. It seems to me that the British would require less financial assistance from the U. S. government than they now do if they reduced allowances to royalty.

CHARLOTT FIELD,  
Claremore, Oklahoma

I am strongly in favor of increasing trade between the United States and the rest of the world. By carrying out such a program, we would be promoting international good will and helping to raise the living standards of people in backward countries. We would also be creating conditions under which there would be no need for war.

JOANNE A. LELAND,  
Altoona, Wisconsin



**WORLD'S FAIR** in the pin-point country of Haiti, a Caribbean republic, is to open in December. After the fair closes next summer, the buildings are to form a new city, Dumarsais Estime, named after Haiti's president.



BETTER ROAD AHEAD? The Ford Motor Company's agreement with labor on a pension plan may set a pattern for other industries.

## Pensions for Workingmen

(Concluded from page 1)

number of industries have recently been urging their employers to set up retirement systems.

Another reason is this: The postwar boom has leveled off; there has been some fear of a depression. Consequently, workers are thinking more about their need for future security than they did a few years ago.

While many disputes over pensions are still unsettled, an agreement has been reached in the case of one big automobile firm, the Ford Motor Company. A retirement benefit system has been agreed upon by labor and management, thereby avoiding a threatened strike. Here is what the Ford settlement provides:

For every hour of work that each Ford employee performs, the company will put 8 $\frac{3}{4}$  cents into a special pension fund. When a worker reaches the age of 65, after having been with Ford for 30 years, he can retire with an assured income of \$100 per month.

Part of this \$100 will be the old-age benefit payment received through the U. S. social security system, but the Ford company will pay whatever is necessary to make up the difference. If the retired worker has been with the company less than 30 years, his monthly pension will be below \$100.

### Company-Financed

The system agreed upon by Ford and its employees is known as a *non-contributory* plan, because the workers will not make contributions to the company pension fund out of their wages. Some businesses, on the other hand, have set up *contributory* programs, in which part of the cost is carried by the employees themselves. Under this latter type of plan, workers make payments into the pension fund through regular deductions from their wages or salaries.

The two big retirement systems which the federal government operates

for employees of private industry are *contributory*. They are the programs set up by the Social Security Act and the Railroad Retirement Act, which were passed in the 1930's. Under these government-administered plans, both the employers and the employees make contributions into the funds from which old-age pensions are paid.

Upon retirement, workers covered by the railroad measure can get benefit payments ranging up to \$144 per month. The U. S. social security system, meanwhile, pays considerably less—a *maximum* of \$85 per month to the retired person and his dependents. The *average* monthly payment to a man and his wife, under the social security old-age benefit program, is only about \$40.

### Millions Are Covered

About 35 million workers now make contributions to the U. S. social security fund, and last year 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  million made payments under the Railroad Retirement Act. Upon reaching retirement age, these men and women will receive monthly benefits out of the funds they have helped to build.

It is difficult to tell, on the other hand, how many people are involved in pension systems set up by private companies—plans like that just agreed upon by Ford. The reason is that there are hundreds of these programs in operation. But according to recent estimates, well over 5 million workers are covered by such plans.

Many of these 5 million or more people, when they quit work, will get benefit payments under the railroad retirement or social security systems, as well as through the programs set up privately by their own firms. We have seen how the Ford company has, in fact, carefully worked its own plan in with the social security program. Likewise some railroad companies have set up private pension systems

in addition to the one provided by the Railroad Retirement Act.

As we have seen, the big government-operated pension programs are financed by contributions from both the workers and the employers. In the private field, the situation is different. Of the 5 million or more workers who are taking part in private pension arrangements, more than half are under programs financed by the employers alone.

This is the type of plan which was demanded by the steelworkers union and which was turned down by the companies. Steel executives said they were willing to set up a pension program, but insisted that the workers should also bear part of the expense by making contributions to the insurance funds.

United Steelworkers' president, Philip Murray—and other union officials—presented these views in support of a system that would be financed entirely by the companies: "Providing for the future security of the workers should be regarded as a regular operating cost in the steel industry. Therefore, all the cost should be carried by management, just as is the expense of keeping machinery in good condition."

"There are already in effect, for high-ranking executives of most steel companies, pension plans financed entirely by the corporations. Why aren't the workers also entitled to company-financed retirement programs?"

Representatives of the steel corporations replied that policies established for dealing with a handful of executives should not necessarily govern the policy toward a million workers. Benjamin Fairless, head of the United States Steel Corporation, pointed out that the idea of a program financed jointly by workers and employers is in line with the U. S. social security system. A common argument in favor of this system is that workers will have a greater feeling of self-reliance if they carry part of the pensions' cost than if they do not.

The outcome of the dispute may be known by the time this paper reaches its readers. Meanwhile, other important questions have been raised concerning the demands for private pension systems. For instance, what is to be the relationship between private industrial pensions and the U. S. social security program? Congress has been discussing the possibility of bringing a great many more people into the social security program and of increasing the benefit payments

which each participating worker will receive.

Many people feel that if there are to be further increases in the size of pensions, and in the number of persons receiving them, those increases should come through the federal program. The problem of old-age security, it is argued, is a national one. The fairest way to handle it is by governmental, nation-wide action.

Mrs. Eugene Meyer, writer on national affairs, recently expressed fear that the growth of private pension systems—particularly those which are financed entirely by employers—will endanger social security enlargement. "How," she asks, "can the unions be expected to support the extension of the federal contributory system of social security when their private pensions cost them nothing?"

### Additional Views

The workers who belong to powerful unions, her argument continues, are the ones who will benefit from the present drive for private pension systems. Millions of other workers who are not well organized, says Mrs. Meyer, will be unable to get their companies to set up pension plans for them. So they and other groups of the population will be the losers if private systems grow at the expense of the federal social security program.

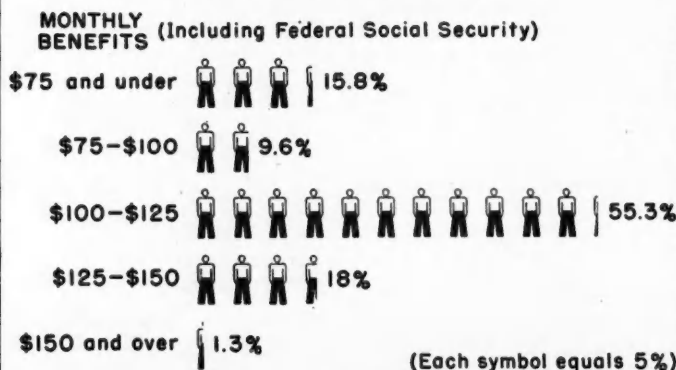
Unions that are seeking private pension arrangements for their members are not turned aside by such arguments. Their leaders argue that the prospects for expansion of the U. S. social security system are not encouraging. Consequently, it is said, the best way for workers to be assured of decent pensions is to demand private retirement programs from the industries for which they work. These company plans, union chiefs contend, can always be fitted into the national security program.

Supporters of public rather than private pension plans are urging Congress to hasten its action on enlarging the U. S. social security program. They think that swift steps in this direction would reduce the pressure for private retirement systems.

A bill recently passed by the House of Representatives would bring 11 million additional people into the federal old-age insurance system, and it would raise the benefits paid to retired workers. Contributions of both employers and employees would be increased to pay for the expanded program. This measure will be considered by the Senate early next year.

## WHAT PENSIONERS GET

For Employees Earning \$250 a Month



BENEFITS to workers who participate in both public and private pension programs. The amount a person receives depends on how much he earned when working.

NEW YORK TIMES



## SMILES

"So you have three pairs of glasses, professor?"  
 "Yes, one for long sight, one for short sight, and one to find the other two pairs."

★

Golfer: "Tough course, isn't it, caddy?"  
 Caddy: "Sorry sir, this isn't the course. You left it an hour ago."

★

Buck: "Can you give me the definition of an orator?"  
 Private: "Yup. He's the guy who always wants to lay down your life for his country."

★

"Are you Hungary?"  
 "Yes, Siam."  
 "Den Russia to the table and I'll Fiji."  
 "All right, Sweden my coffee and Denmark the bill."

★

"Why did you buy a dachshund for the children?"  
 "So they could all pat him at once."

★

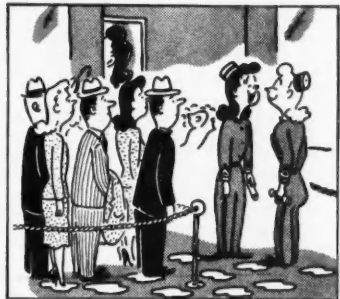
"What is a waffle, Tom?"  
 "A pancake with a non-skid tread."

★

"When I was 20 I made up my mind to get rich."  
 "But you never did?"  
 "No, I found it a lot easier to change my mind."

★

"So Jim was the life of the party?"  
 "Yes, he was the only one who could talk louder than the radio."



"My ex-boy friend just came in with a girl and I separated them!"

## Your Vocabulary

The italicized words in the sentences below appeared in a recent issue of Harper's. Match each with the following word or phrase whose meaning is most nearly the same. Correct answers are given on page 8, column 4.

1. They made *derogatory* (dē-rōg'uh-tō'ri) remarks. (a) foolish (b) belittling (c) frequent (d) complimentary.

2. We must *evaluate* (ē-vāl'yū-ate) the information. (a) discount (b) discuss thoroughly (c) determine the worth of (d) believe.

3. A bad situation developed during the *ensuing* (ēn-sū'ing) years. (a) following (b) preceding (c) depression (d) prewar.

4. The land is *arable* (air'uh-bl). (a) worn out (b) mountainous (c) suitable for tilling (d) extremely dry.

5. Financially, the firm is in a *precarious* (prē-car'ī-ūs) condition. (a) an insecure (b) an excellent (c) an unusual (d) an enviable.

6. If the population of a country is *homogeneous* (hō-mō-jē'nē-ūs), its people are (a) poverty-stricken (b) similar to one another (c) mostly dairy farmers (d) fond of war.



MODERN BUILDINGS give an attractive air to the business section of Colombo, capital of Ceylon

## Ceylon, a New Nation

Tropical Island Is Happy and Content with Its Independence, but Remains Friendly to Former British Rulers

WITH its palm trees, coconut groves and lofty mountains, Ceylon is an "isle where every prospect pleases," as the poet wrote. More than most countries in the Far East, this tropical island off the coast of India is leading a peaceful, reasonably prosperous and contented life.

While farming is the main occupation of Ceylon's 7 million people, an American finds the farming methods quite strange. A high school youth in Ceylon does not, for example, hitch up the old gray mare or get out the tractor to do a job for his father. Instead, dressed in a sarong as his work-a-day costume, the young farmer of Ceylon uses the elephant, the ox, or the buffalo.

The elephant is for the heavy work, like pulling up a tree stump. The ox is the dray animal, for hauling cart loads of farm produce. The buffalo is for plowing. The three animals are easy to train, and they are quite as plentiful in Ceylon as they are scarce in our country. So they replace the tractor, which is expensive, and the horse, which is rare.

Tea is the big crop but the people seldom drink it themselves, even though they have been growing tea leaves for over 100 years. The government is conducting a propaganda campaign to try to make the drink popular. Most of the tea, however, is exported to Great Britain. Other exports are rubber and coconut products—the coconut oil for cooking and the dry, cake-like leftover for fodder.

Rice with curry, often on banana leaves as plates, is Ceylon's favorite meal. Rice is grown on the island and large quantities are imported from

other countries. The rice and a variety of meaty fruits assure everyone of enough to eat. A student on the way to school can, if he likes, pick a banana or a pear-shaped mango. If he's agile, he can climb a tree and shake down a coconut.

Farming is likely to remain Ceylon's chief means of making a living, but there are signs of change and modernization. The government is sponsoring both a farm and an industrial development program.

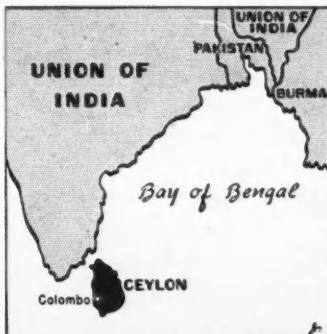
High school students, including the girls who work along with their brothers on the farms, are going to England to learn about tractors and soil improvement. Others go to England and some come to America to study law, business and medicine. In Ceylon itself, educational standards are rising. Only about 50 percent of the youth could read and write a few years ago. Now more than 80 percent can do so.

The aim of the government is to end the habits Ceylon acquired as a colony. For over 150 years the island was under British rule. Before that it belonged to the Dutch. Under these rulers, Ceylon's energy was directed to the production of raw materials for manufacture in the mother nations. Since 1948, however, it has been an independent, self-governing country and a member of the British Commonwealth of Nations. In keeping with its new independence, Ceylon wants to use some of its raw materials in local factories.

The majority of the people are from a very ancient race, probably related to the neighboring Indians. Long association with their colonial settlers has given the Ceylonese a western outlook. Dutch-style homes are to be found. British customs are followed by many, and the British are well liked. British naval and troop forces are based on the island and are pledged, by treaty, to defend it.

The capital city, Colombo, is modern, western-style in its newest sections. The highways are excellent throughout the island, although the ox carts and an occasional wandering herd of elephants slow auto traffic. This quite minor traffic question is just about the most serious problem facing peaceful, happy Ceylon.

—By THOMAS F. HAWKINS.



DRAWN FOR THE AMERICAN OBSERVER BY JOHNSON

## Science News

The ninth annual search for top teen-age scientists is being conducted by Science Clubs of America. High school seniors all over the country are being invited to compete for scholarships totaling \$11,000 that are given by Westinghouse Electric Corporation.

Each contestant must take a three-hour science aptitude exam in his own high school, and submit a one-thousand word essay on "My Scientific Project." Entries should be received by Science Clubs of America, 1719 N Street, N.W., Washington 6, D.C., by December 27, 1949.

Next spring, the 40 finalists in the competition will attend a five-day Science Talent Institute in Washington at which time the winners will be selected. To the boy or girl judged the most promising young scientist in the nation, a university scholarship of \$2,800 will be given. The runner-up will be awarded a scholarship of \$2,000. Lesser prizes will be given to other contestants.

★ ★ ★

Mariners approaching New York harbor after December will find a new lightship to warn them of dangers. The 92-foot-long craft will not have anyone aboard, for all her controls are to be handled by electronic devices. Every 6 seconds the ship will flash a powerful light which can be seen for 12 miles. During stormy weather, the ship's fog horn will sound every 10 seconds.

★ ★ ★

Scientists at the Department of Agriculture have a new process ready for commercial testing. It involves equipment which makes it possible to can fresh milk just as fruit juices are canned. The inventors say people will not be able to tell any difference between the canned fresh milk and the bottled product they now get.

★ ★ ★

A million high school boys and girls—members of Science Clubs of America—are aiding in a wild mouse hunt. The "Pied Pipers" are catching and studying the mice in cooperation with the Jackson Memorial Laboratory, Bar Harbor, Maine, a world famous center for the study of cancer. The Laboratory is providing instructions for trapping the mice, information on food and life habits, and necessary research data.

This project is open to any student interested in scientific research. Address inquiries to Science Clubs of America, 1719 N Street, N.W., Washington 6, D.C.

—By HAZEL L. ELDRIDGE.

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## Careers for Tomorrow - - Foreign Languages

**I**S it French that you like to study? Or do you excel in Spanish, German, Italian, or in one of the less commonly spoken tongues? If so, you probably wonder how you can build your career around this particular interest.

At the outset, we must emphasize that teaching is by far the largest field in which a knowledge of foreign languages is a primary qualification needed. Teachers of languages, of course, must competently speak and read some foreign tongue. They must also know the history and customs of countries where the language is used.

Part of this background is acquired in college, but part must be obtained through graduate study and travel.

Aside from teaching the only fields in which a knowledge of a foreign language is the primary requirement are those of translating and interpreting.

Translators, as the name indicates, translate letters, books, or articles from one language into another. Interpreters follow speeches or conversations as they are made in one tongue and almost instantaneously repeat them in other languages.

The federal government, publishing firms, and business concerns that carry on a large international trade are the chief sources of employment for translators. Interpreters are employed by the federal government and by the United Nations. They are also employed by businessmen and other individuals when they travel abroad or deal with people who do not speak English.

Both these fields of language work require a thorough knowledge of English and of at least one other tongue. The interpreter must be more skilled

than the translator, since he has little time to think as he shifts from one language to another. The translator, though, must have some literary ability, especially if he is to translate books or poetry. This ability is not so necessary if a person is to handle only official documents, letters, business orders, and the like.

Interpreters and translators, like teachers, must have a more thorough background in languages than is usu-



**AN INTERESTING LIFE**, often with travel, can be a reward to those who know foreign languages well. This woman works for the Voice of America.

ally obtained in college. Graduate study is helpful, but an interpreter or a top translator must usually have lived for a long time in a country where his particular foreign tongue is spoken. As a matter of fact, most top-rank interpreters have "grown up" in a "bilingual atmosphere"—they have heard two or more languages spoken since childhood.

Salaries for teachers of foreign languages are similar to those of teachers in other fields. They vary from \$2,000 to a high of \$7,500, with the average probably being about \$3,300 a year.

Translators and interpreters are usually employed for particular jobs of short duration. They receive \$5, \$10, or maybe as much as \$500 for a piece of translation or a session of interpreting. Interpreters employed by the United Nations earn about \$5,000 a year. Those employed by the federal government earn from \$3,000 to \$7,500. The best positions with the government require that a person be able to read and speak as many as 4 languages.

Aside from the fields discussed above, a knowledge of a foreign language may open the door to many interesting career opportunities.

The foreign service of the United States requires that most of its employees know at least one language in addition to English. Engineers, teachers, reporters, bankers, stenographers, salesmen and women welfare workers—people in almost any field who want to work abroad will find their opportunities greatly enhanced if they can speak and read a foreign tongue.

The Pan American Union, Washington 6, D. C., has a mimeographed discussion of vocational opportunities for students of Spanish and Portuguese. The discussion is also valuable to people interested in other languages.

The federal Civil Service Commission, Washington 25, D. C., can supply information about the qualifications needed for positions as translators with the federal government.

—By CARRINGTON SHIELDS.

## Study Guide

### Pension Plans

1. How did the labor situation during World War II encourage the establishment of retirement pension plans?
2. Why are workers today thinking more about their need for future security than they did a few years ago?
3. Describe the retirement system that has been set up at the Ford Motor Company.
4. Distinguish between *contributory* and *non-contributory* pension plans.
5. What arguments are given by Philip Murray and other union officials in favor of pension systems financed entirely by the companies?
6. Why do representatives of the steel corporations feel that workers should help pay for their pensions?
7. What effect does Mrs. Eugene Meyer feel the growth of private pension systems may have on the federal social security program?

### Discussion

1. Do you think private pension systems should be financed entirely by the employer, or should the workers contribute? Give reasons for your answer.
2. In your opinion, should the federal social security program be enlarged or should private programs be relied upon to provide pensions for retired workers? Explain your views.

### World Trade

1. How did the value of U. S. imports last year compare with the value of exports?
2. Why can't most foreign countries afford to buy all the American goods they want?
3. What steps is our government taking to increase world trade?
4. Why do tariffs tend to cut down the amount of trade among nations?
5. Describe the process by which a reciprocal trade agreement is drawn up.
6. Why do some people feel that a further lowering of tariffs will have extremely harmful effects within our own country?
7. On the other hand, what benefits do certain others feel our country will receive as a result of lowered tariffs?

### Discussion

1. Do you think that the Reciprocal Trade Agreements Act is harmful or beneficial to the nation as a whole? Give reasons for your answer.
2. If you are opposed to increased foreign sales in this country, what would you do, if anything, to enable other countries to continue buying goods from us on the present scale?

### Miscellaneous

1. Why is there a possibility that the present session of the UN General Assembly will grant Libya its independence?
2. How does the Food and Agricultural Organization of the UN plan to help needy countries buy food from other nations?
3. Why may our government aid Yugoslavia if she is attacked by Russia?
4. What is the name of the government that the Communists recently set up in China?
5. Who is building the federal government's Allatoona Dam in northern Georgia?
6. Why does the American Automobile Association want to develop a large synthetic rubber industry in the United States?
7. What alliance formed this year marks a basic change in U. S. policy?
8. Briefly describe life in Ceylon.

### Answers to Your Vocabulary

1. (b) belittling; 2. (c) determine the worth of; 3. (a) following; 4. (c) suitable for tilling; 5. (a) an insecure; 6. (b) similar to one another.

## Historical Backgrounds - - Change in Policy

**T**HE Americans are a peace-loving people, far removed from foreign centers of population, but peaceful intentions and favorable location have not given them freedom from war. From 1689, a hundred years before the nation was founded as an independent republic, to the present, every generation has had its war.

During this time the longest period of peace (from the Civil War to the Spanish American) lasted only 33 years. Since then—during the first half of the Twentieth Century—we have participated in two terrible wars.

The conflicts involving Americans began when the English colonies along

the Atlantic seaboard were young. France and England were fighting for supremacy in Europe and for control of North America. Spain also contended for mastery in North America, but she was a declining power. Her hope of building a great empire in the areas north of Mexico had dimmed long before our Revolutionary War.

The English colonies, which were, a century later, to become the United States of America, were brought into all these conflicts. In American history the colonial wars are known as King William's War (1689-1697), Queen Anne's War (1702-1713), King George's War (1744-1748), and the French and Indian War (1754-1763).

In all these wars the colonists fought on the side of England against France and her Indian allies. From 1775 to 1783, however, the colonists fought for independence against England, and were joined by the French. From 1812 to 1815 the United States, then an independent nation, again fought against England, at a time when the English were fighting the French.

After the War of 1812 the United States maintained the policy of not forming alliances with other nations. When the two world wars of the Twentieth Century came, we entered the conflicts, and lined up with a number of Allies, but in each case we refrained from fighting until the war had been going on for more than two years. Our country held to its free-

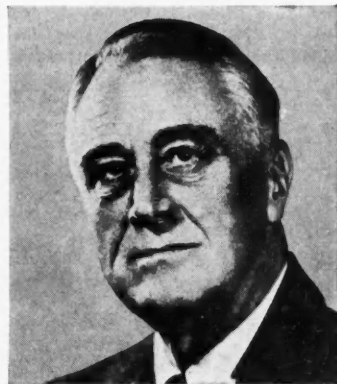
dom of decision about what to do when wars broke out elsewhere in the world.

Now, in 1949, we have thrown aside that tradition, and have, in time of peace, formed an alliance with 11 other nations. This is a decision of great historic importance.

This change of policy was adopted because of the belief that attack by Russia can best be warded off if the western nations stand together. While preparing to fight the Soviet Union successfully if war should come, we and our Allies hope that a conflict can be avoided and that history will not repeat its long, tragic story of strife and terrible destruction.



**WOODROW WILSON** was United States President during World War I



**FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT** led the nation during most of World War II